

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1949



INCORPORATING THE  
Report of the Sanitary Inspector  
(Mr. G. W. TATE.)

ASHINGTON :  
J. WILKINSON, HIGH MARKET  
1950



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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1949

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington*

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I herewith present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1949.

The vital statistics are, on the whole, satisfactory, the two unsatisfactory features being a slight rise in the death rate and a considerable increase in deaths from Cancer. Against this, however, there is the slight rise in the birth rate, an entire absence of maternal deaths, and the lowest infantile mortality ever recorded in the district. The incidence of infectious disease was remarkably low during 1949, being, in every disease except Erysipelas, lower in Ashington than in the country as a whole.

The almost complete absence of Diphtheria and the completion of the third successive year without a single fatal case are causes for great satisfaction, pointing as they do to the success of the immunisation campaign.

There was a welcome decline in the notifications of Tuberculosis, and the death rate was markedly lower than the average for England and Wales.

Ashington Urban District Council has done excellent work in re-housing Tuberculous patients and other families living in overcrowded conditions, and this should do much to check the spread of this serious disease.

The housing programme made great strides in 1949, and 227 houses were completed, compared with only 76 in 1948. The need, however, remains considerable, especially for the two-bedroom type of house.

In conclusion, I would express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council, and my thanks for the assistance afforded me by the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,

Medical Officer of Health,

Urban District of Ashington.

July, 1950.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON  
 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
 HEALTH FOR 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

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Medical Officer of Health ...	...	...	...	...	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health ...	...	...	...	...	K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Sanitary } Housing } Inspector ...	...	...	...	...	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.
Meat }					
Sanitary } Meat } Inspector (additional) ...	...	...	...	...	H. S. Wilson, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.
Sanitary } Meat } Inspector (additional) ...	...	...	...	...	J. Colvin, M.S.I.A., Ass. M.R.S.I.
Offices of the M.O.H. ...	...	...	...	...	146 Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone Number ...	...	...	...	...	Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector ...	...	...	...	...	Council Chambers, Ashington.
Telephone Number ...	...	...	...	...	Ashington 3210.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	6,057
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-1949 ... ...	28,850
Rateable Value ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	£116,780
One Penny Rate produces ... ... ... ... ...	£460
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) ... ... ...	7,972

#### *Vital Statistics*

##### BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
		Male	Female
Legitimate ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	515	261	254
Illegitimate ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	18	13	5
	<hr/> <u>533</u>	<hr/> <u>274</u>	<hr/> <u>259</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 18.47

STILL BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
		Male	Female
Legitimate ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	10	6	4
Illegitimate ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	—	—	—
	<hr/> <u>10</u>	<hr/> <u>6</u>	<hr/> <u>4</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births — 18.4

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population — 0.35

##### DEATHS:

Total	Male	Female
359	207	152

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population — 12.44

Comparability factor — 1.19. Standard Death Rate — 14.8.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ... ...	30.01
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ...	31.07
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ...	61
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ...	2

The Registrar General supplies the following:—

### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1949.

Causes	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ...	0	0
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ...	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever ... ...	0	0
4. Whooping Cough ... ...	0	0
5. Diphtheria ... ...	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of resp. system ... ...	5	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ...	1	0
8. Syphilitic diseases ... ...	1	1
9. Influenza ... ...	2	1
10. Measles ... ...	0	0
11. Acute Polio myel. and Polioenceph ... ...	0	0
12. Acute infectious enceph ... ...	1	0
13. Cancer of buc. cav. and oesph (m) uterus (f)	1	6
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum ... ...	8	6
15. Cancer of breast ... ...	0	1
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ...	23	13
17. Diabetes ... ...	0	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions ... ...	23	24
19. Heart diseases ... ...	77	46
20. Other disorders of the circ. system ... ...	7	7
21. Bronchitis ... ...	12	8
22. Pneumonia ... ...	8	11
23. Other resp. dis. ... ...	7	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ...	2	0
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ...	1	1
26. Appendicitis ... ...	1	0
27. Other digestive dis. ... ...	1	2
28. Nephritis ... ...	2	0
29. Puer and post. abort. sepsis ... ...	0	0
30. Other maternal causes ... ...	0	0
31. Premature births ... ...	3	0
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ... ...	1	1
33. Suicide ... ...	1	0
34. Road Traffic Accident ... ...	2	0
35. Other violent causes ... ...	1	2
36. All other causes ... ...	16	14
	207	152

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	9	7

#### CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHINGTON U.D.

	Number.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart ... ...	123	34.26
Diseases of the Cerebral Vessels ... ...	47	13.09
Cancer ... ...	61	16.99
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ... ...	39	10.86

## INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1949.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 16, a reduction of 13 on the total for 1948. The mortality rate was 30.0 per 1,000 live births, probably the lowest ever recorded in the District and certainly the lowest since 1925.

The Registrar General's Table S.D. 55 gives the Infantile Mortality Rate as follows:—

For England and Wales 32 deaths per 1,000 live births.

For 126 Great Towns 37    "    "    "    "

For 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000—50,000) 30 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The rate for Ashington is thus the same as the average rate for towns of comparable size in England and Wales.

The following table show the comparative mortality rate during the past nine years:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years ...	1	1	2	5	2	0	1	1	2
Infantile deaths under 1 year ...	30	23	42	24	27	30	29	29	16
Infantile Mortality ...	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82	48.9	46.9	58.1	30.01

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year:—

## INFANTILE MORTALITY — 1949

Cause of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Acute Laryngo-Tracheitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Gastro-enteritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Congenital abnormality ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia ...	2	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	1	9
Lack of Vitality ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Prematurity ...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### *Laboratory Facilities*

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory at the Newcastle General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below :—

Specimen sent in by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
R.H.B. Chest Phys. General Practitioners	Tubercle do.	51 1	161 24
R.H.B. Chest Phys. Medical Officer of Health General Practitioners	Swabs for Diphtheria do. do.	0 0 2	3 8 21
R.H.B. Chest Phys. Medical Officer of Health General Practitioners	Swabs for Hæm, Strep. do. do.	2 2 4	1 3 16
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincents Angina	2	3
Medical Officer of Health General Practitioners	Typhoid Results do.	0 1	13 2

#### *Ambulance Facilities*

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council. In Ashington there are now five ambulances, and nine drivers are employed, working shifts, providing a 24-hour service.

#### *Nursing in the Home*

The staff is as follows :—

1 Superintendent

5 Midwives

1 General Nurse.

There are two hospitals in the district, the Ashington General Hospital and the Isolation Hospital, and both are controlled by the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.

### *Treatment Centres and Clinics*

A Chest Clinic, dealing mainly with cases of Tuberculosis, is held at the Elizabeth Craigs Memorial Clinic in Lintonville Terrace.

These premises, also, are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board. A Chest Physician attends twice weekly.

### *Maternity and Child Welfare*

This service is provided by the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, South View, as follows :—

#### *Ante-Natal Clinics*

Every Wednesday — morning and afternoon. Every Friday, except the last in the month — held morning and afternoon on the first and third Friday of each month, and on the fourth Friday when there are five Fridays in the month. Held in the morning only on the second Friday. A doctor is always in attendance.

#### *Post-Natal Clinics.*

Held monthly — on last Tuesday afternoon in the month.

#### *Child Welfare Clinics*

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning.

#### *Sun-Ray Clinics*

Every Monday morning and Thursday afternoon during the winter months only.

#### *Toddler's' Clinics*

Every Tuesday afternoon except the last Tuesday in the month.

#### *Diphtheria Immunisation*

All day the last Friday in the month.

#### *Ophthalmic Clinics*

On Saturday mornings at two-monthly intervals.

#### *Dental Clinics*

All day, every week-day.

# ANNUAL REPORT — 1949

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

*Water.* — The whole of the district receives water from the Tynemouth Corporation supply. This has been chlorinated since 1942, and samples taken show it to be of the highest quality of drinking water, notwithstanding the long period of acute shortage.

Because of the drought, with its attendant uncertainty, a sample of Wansbeck river water was submitted to chemical analysis in September. The result of this indicated that, "provided that the water is adequately chlorinated . . . it could be used as an Emergency Supply."

Appended are results of examinations carried out :—

Source	Date	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
Town Supply (Standpipe) ... ...	24-3-49	Nil
" " " ... ...	24-3-49	Nil

All the houses in the district are supplied with water from the public mains. There are, altogether, 7,972 houses, and there are only 15 houses supplied by standpipes. This represents only 0.17% of the total houses.

*Drainage and Sewage.* — Discussions with owners and builders have taken place, when alterations to existing drainage systems were found necessary. A total of 158 drainage systems were repaired or reconstructed during the year, all being tested and approved by the Department.

Sheepwash Village and Woodhorn Village are still without a satisfactory sewage disposal system, and it will be necessary in the near future for the Council to consider the provision of small systems for these two areas.

*Rivers and Streams.* — No action was taken under this heading.

*Closet Accommodation.* — One earth closet was converted to water carriage during the year.

*Sanitary Inspection of the Area.* — Close co-operation continues to exist between the Department and local builders, with the greatest benefit. Informal action to secure the carrying out of repairs is made use of to a great extent, as shown by the table on page 11; indeed, 731 defects were remedied and only 42 of these defects necessitated the service of a Statutory Notice.

One Demolition Order was made during the year, and the property concerned, a wooden bungalow erected in 1920, was demolished.

A second Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed during the year, and commenced full - time duties on 16th July. This appointment, as well as greatly facilitating the "following-up" of notices served, has made possible additional visits in connection with food-preparing premises and food shops.

The following table summarises the notices served :—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done	Verbal or Written Notice	Complied with
To clear Choked Drains or Water Closets ...	145	145
To provide Ashbins ...	9	9
To repair Eaves-gutters and Downspouts ...	25	23
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes ...	8	8
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls, etc. ...	57	53
Defective Fireplaces ...	49	45
Defective Outbuildings ...	25	25
Defective Water Closets ...	32	28
Defective Saschords ...	26	25
Defective Wallplaster ...	41	35
Offensive Accumulations ...	2	2
Defective Foodstores ...	19	15
Defective Airgrates ...	12	12
Defective Ceilings ...	20	18*

*Swimming Baths and Pools.* — The Institute Baths, which are open to the public, were visited at frequent intervals and examinations of the chlorine content of the water were carried out. In addition, 5 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, with the following results :—

Source	Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Institute Baths ...	31-5-49	Nil
„ „ (deep end) ...	31-8-49	5
„ „ (shallow end) ...	31-8-49	5
„ „ „ (deep end) ...	12-9-49	1
„ „ „ (deep end) ...	12-9-49	Nil

*Schools.* — All schools in the District have a main water supply and suitable sanitary arrangements.

*Cinemas and Public Buildings.* — No complaints have been received in respect of these buildings, and the ventilation, cleanliness and sanitary accommodation remain satisfactory.

*Rodent Control.* — As in past years, the delegation of powers from the County Council under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 was renewed during the year.

It has again been amply demonstrated that the policy of the Council in providing a free de-ratification service to the ratepayers is a sound one. No attempts were made to conceal the presence of rats or mice, and the greatest possible co-operation is obtained from both occupiers and owners of premises.

All possible sources of infestation received regular visits and treatment, and the substitution of brick erections for wooden pigstyes continues steadily. In this connection, the co-operation of the various Allotment Committees is useful and helpful to both the Allotment-holders and this Department.

*Camping Sites.* — There are no camping sites in the Area.

*Atmospheric Pollution.* — The habit of firing chimneys continues to be common, although the shortage of sweeps in the district is not now so acute with the advent of the vacuum sweeping system. It is hoped that eventually those people who wilfully pollute the atmosphere in this way will realise the value of a smoke-free air, and until that time every opportunity is seized to bring the enormity of this offence of chimney-firing to the notice of the public.

During the year, the North-East Divisional Council of the National Smoke Abatement Society was formed, and the Ashington U.D.C. became a member. It is anticipated that this Council will encourage action in Smoke Abatement, and it is likely that great benefit will be derived from the technical activities of the Society.

*Colliery Spoilbanks.* — Close liaison continues to be maintained between both H.M. Alkali Inspector and the local N.C.B. Officials, and the Council's Sanitary Inspector. The position, as far as Ashington is concerned, can best be summed up by saying that on the whole the burning spoilbanks are kept under control, although at times during the year more fuming than was desirable was found. The method adopted in the district is chiefly the use of water-sprays, but it is again pointed out that this is a mere palliative and that the only permanent solution rests with the National Coal Board, so that until the N.C.B. direct research into the use of the spoil, and into alternative means of disposal, at least ten thousand tons of spoil per week will be deposited in the District, with its attendant problems of dust nuisance and the emission of fumes.

*Mosquitoes.* — The policy of spraying water areas justifies itself, as no complaint of mosquitoes was received during the year. In addition to spraying, work was commenced upon the canalisation of the Blue Holes water area, and it is anticipated that when this is complete the nuisance in the Woodhorn Area will be completely eliminated.

#### *Eradication of Vermin*

(a) No. of Council-owned Premises found to be infested by Vermin — 1. No. disinfested — 1.

(b) No. of other Premises found to be infested by Vermin — 11. No. disinfested — 11.

For this work Zaldecide and D.D.T. were used.

Disinfestation is carried out by employees of the Local Authority. A charge covering cost of material and labour is made, according to the circumstances of the case, on the owner or the tenant, and advice is given on the avoidance of the re-infestation.

**BEETLES.** — Infestation by beetles is a not infrequent cause for complaint. Twenty-one Premises were dealt with for this.

#### SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

		After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Prives abolished	...	1	—	—	1
Privy Ashpits abolished	...	1	—	—	1
Water Closets provided	...	2	—	—	2
" " repaired	...	—	61	9	70
Sanitary Bins provided	...	1	—	—	1
" " renewed	...	9	—	—	9
Draughts repaired or reconstructed	...	147	8	3	158
Old Gullies replaced	...	2	—	—	2
Scullery Sinks provided	...	2	—	—	2
" Waste Pipes repaired	...	3	5	—	8
Yards repaired or reconstructed	...	—	6	—	6

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT—Year ending 31st December 1949

		No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws	No. outstanding from previous year	Total	No. remedied after letter or interview	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied thereafter	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Proceedings
<b>HOUSING</b>											
Structural Defects	...	...	927	307	61	246	231	13	13	12	
Defective Food Store	...	...	39	12	15	12	10	5	5	—	
Dampness	...	...	137	60	69	53	46	11	11	5	
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>											
Insufficient	...	...	87	11	6	5	4	1	1		
Unsatisfactory	...	...									
<b>DRAINAGE</b>											
Insufficient	...	...	570	158	158	147	11	8	3	3	
Unsatisfactory	...	...									
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>											
Insufficient	...	...	285	71	1	72	40	31	21	9	2
Defective	...	...									
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	...	927	35	35	9	7	26	26			
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	147	7								
Slaughter Houses	...	847	6	GOVERNMENT	6	6					
Tents, Vans, etc.	...	27									
Offensive Trades	...	153									
Workshops and Workplaces	...	175	23								
Keeping of Animals	...	53	12								
Insanitary Ashpits and Recep.	...	72	9								
Offensive Accumulations	...	57	2								
Smoke Nuisances	...	55	7								
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	3658	720	32	752	337	389	353	42	42	21

## FACTORIES ACT.

There are, in the district, 126 factories. The following tables give details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1949.

The "other premises" included in section (iii) of the table are three building sites on which sanitary accommodation had to be provided.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ... ...	123	127	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers premises.)...	3	15	—	—
Total ...	126	142	—	—

† i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103 (1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108)

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ...	13	13	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	4	4	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ... ...	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	7	7	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	3	3	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	31	31	—	4	—

## HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

Houses Completed during the year.	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
By Local Authority, Permanent	227	0	227
Temporary	9	0	0
By other Bodies or Persons			
Permanent	0	8	8
Temporary	0	0	0

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year :—*

- |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 659 |
| (b) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (c) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |

2. *Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices :—*

- |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

3. *Action under Statutory Powers :—*

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No action was taken under these Sections.

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| (a) By owners.   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   | 17 |

- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949. Sec. 3) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | NIL |

4. *Number of Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above* ... NIL

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sect. 20).

No action was taken under this Act.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

On 1st October 1949 the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 came into operation and the Council ceased to be responsible for the registration of dairy farms, and ceased to have control of pasteurising plants. The former became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the latter of the County Council. The registration of milk retailers alone remained with the District Council.

*Milk Supply.*— Thirty-two samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination, as set out below.

Eight Pasteurised samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test, with the appended results:—

29.1 - 1	2.0 - 1	1.4 - 2
2.3 - 1	1.6 - 1	
2.2 - 1	1.5 - 1	

Of 24 samples of Raw and T.T. Milks submitted to the County Laboratory, Newburn,

18	satisfied the Methylene Blue Test
2	decolourised under 4½ hours
1	„ „ 4 „
2	„ „ 3 „
1	„ „ 1 „

None of the samples which failed was produced in the Urban District.

Twenty-four samples were submitted to the test for Tuberculosis, and all were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND.

*Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947.* — Twelve samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests. These were returned in the following grades:—

Grade 1 ... 5	Grade 3 ... 2
Grade 2 ... Nil	Grade 4 ... 5

*Meat and Other Foods.*— The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot for Ashington and Newbiggin is located in the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society.

The numbers of animals slaughtered during the year under review were as follows:—

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1,805; Cows 88; Calves 517; Sheep and Lambs 7,639; Swine 215.

The amount of Meat condemned, surrendered and destroyed is set out in the accompanying table with the reason for such action. This meat is sent away for processing for the extraction of fats, etc.

### MEAT, ORGANS, etc., CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED FOR TUBERCULOSIS

SWINE:—			
BOVINE:—		Heads	...     ...     ...     1
Lungs	...	Mesenteries	...     ...     ...     1
Livers	...	Carcases	...     ...     ...     1 (Weight 14½ stns.).
Heads and Tongues	...		
Skirts	...		
Stomachs	...		
Mesenteries	...		
Hearts	...		
Spleens	...		
Kidneys	...		
Carcases (including 1 T.B. Test, 1 Casualty and 1 Owner's Risk)	...	9 (Total weight 368½ stones)	
Beef weighing 81½ stns.			
Calf Carcasses	...		1 (Weight 2 stns.).

## FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES

## BOVINE

Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Parasites 92; pneumonia 9; Pleurisy 6; actinomycosis 1; abscesses 3.
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cirrhosis (whole) 410, (part) 682; echinococcus cysts 35; abscesses 31; cavernous angioma 5; friable 3; bacillary necrosis 2; fatty degeneration 1.
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	Actinomycosis 48; cysticercus bovis 6.
Udders	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mastitis 36.
Skirts	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cysticercus bovis 4; inflammation 2; abscesses 1.
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 10; abscesses 4.
Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 5; Johnes' disease 2; abscesses 1.
Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cysticercus bovis 5; inflammation 1.
Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 1; infarcts 2.
Mesenteries	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 1; parasites 1.
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nephritis 1.
Feet	...	...	...	...	...	...	Traumatism 1.
Calf Head	...	...	...	...	...	...	Glossitis 1.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bruising 77½ sts.; bone taint 31¾ sts.; abscesses 50 lbs.; fat necrosis 16 lbs.
Carcases (including 9 casualties and 1 Owner's Risk)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Septicaemia 3; Johnes' disease 2; illsetting and oedema 1; emaciation and illsetting 1; septic metritis 1; oedema and emaciation 1; emaciatio 1. (Total weight 307 sts.).
Calf Carcasses (including 2 casualties and 1 Owner's Risk)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Septicaemia 3; pyaemia 2. (Total weight 12½ sts.).

## SHEEP:—

Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	Cirrhosis 17; parasites 6; bacillary necrosis 4; friable 4; fatty degeneration 3; adhesions 1.
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pneumonia 36; parasites 7; pleurisy 2; abscesses 1.
Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pneumonia 18; parasites 6; decomposition 5; pleurisy 5; inflammation 3; abscesses 2; lipomatia 1.
Heads	...	...	...	...	...	...	Abscesses 6; parasites 3.
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	Fat necrosis 1; nephritis 2.
Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 7.
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 5.
Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pleurisy 1.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bruising 88 lbs.; abscesses 65 lbs.; contamination 22 lbs.; deformities 12 lbs.; arthritis 3 lbs.
Carcases (of which 38 were casualties)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Septicaemia 12; dropsy and emaciation 10; dropsy and illsetting 6; illsetting 5; septic pneumonia 4; moribund 3; oedema 3; pyrexia and illsetting 3; emaciation 2; multiple abscesses 2; decomposition 1; generalised melanosis 1; acute pneumonia 1; illsetting and decomposition 1; septic mastitis 1; illsetting and pneumonia 1. (Total weight 165½ sts.).

## SWINE

Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 3.
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 1.
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pneumonia 1.
Mesenteries	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 1.
Spleen	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inflammation 1.
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	Bruising 46 lbs.; abscesses 6 lbs.
Carcases (both casualties)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Acute swine erysipelas 1; septicaemia 1. (Total weight 16½ sts.).

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1949

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1805	88	517	6187	215
Number Inspected } ... ...					
All Diseases except Tuberculosis —					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	7	3	5	56	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ... ...	324	52	1	119	5
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than T.B. ... ...	18.34	62.5	1.15	2.29	3.26
Tuberculosis only —					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	4	5	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ... ...	202	64	—	—	1
Percentage of Number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	11.41	78.41	0.19	—	0.93

**Other Foods.**— The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:—

Tinned Meats ...	... ... ... ...	145 tins	Meat Pies	... ... ... ...	142 pies
Fish ...	... ... ... ...	109 tins	Barley	... ... ... ...	40 lbs.
Fruit ...	... ... ... ...	66 tins	Sago	... ... ... ...	58½ lbs.
" ...	... ... ... ...	16 bottles	Rolled Oats	... ... ... ...	60 lbs.
" ...	... ... ... ...	1387 lbs.	Tapioca	... ... ... ...	59 lbs.
Fruit Juice ...	... ... ... ...	16 tins	Flour	... ... ... ...	18 lbs.
Vegetables ...	... ... ... ...	173 tins	Sausage and Black Puddings	...	76½ lbs.
" ...	... ... ... ...	10 jars	Pastry and Pudding Mixtures	... 90 packets	
" ...	... ... ... ...	52 lbs.	Rissoles	... ... ... ...	48
Jam ...	... ... ... ...	12 tins	Butter	... ... ... ...	3 lbs.
Milk ...	... ... ... ...	542 tins	Cheese	... ... ... ...	12 lbs.
Soup ...	... ... ... ...	100 tins	Cocoa	... ... ... ...	11½ lbs.
Biscuits ...	... ... ... ...	8 lbs.	Dried Eggs	... ... ... ...	1 packet
Bread ...	... ... ... ...	946 loaves	Junket Powders	... ... ... ...	157 packets
Tea Cakes ...	... ... ... ...	128 cakes	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	... ... ... ...	11 tins
Iced Buns ...	... ... ... ...	250 buns	" "	... ... ... ...	52 jars
Crisp-bread ...	... ... ... ...	17 packets			

## SECTION F

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided at the Isolation Hospital, Ashington, and at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Diseases	Under 1 yr.										Over 65									
	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths				
Diphtheria ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ...	—	—	—	1	—	5	2	12	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery (Sonne) ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ...	4	17	24	17	15	26	9	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ...	—	1	3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* 1 Age unknown.

## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

This term includes deaths from the following seven diseases only:— Whooping Cough, Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid), Enteritis (Diarrhoea under 2 years).

Disease	No. of Deaths										Rate per 1,000 Population								
	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Diphtheria ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Scarlet Fever ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Smallpox ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Enteric Fever ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Whooping Cough ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Measles ... ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0	0.0	0.07
Enteritis ... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## DIPTHERIA

The incidence of Diphtheria reached a record low level in 1949. Only one case occurred and, for the third successive year, no death was recorded.

The following table shows the notifications and deaths in the past 19 years:—

Year	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Deaths	12	11	15	196	115	56	32	175	179	8	5	12	18	34	197	76	9	5	1
Cases	1	3	2	3	4	—	3	5	4	—	1	2	2	2	4	3	—	—	—

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Visits to all schools in the district were paid during 1949.

Altogether, during 1949 there were treated for the first time, at the school, at the Welfare Centre and by private doctors, 354 pre-school children and 258 school children. In addition, 671 children received re-inforcing injections.

It was estimated at 31.12.49 that a total of 1,423 pre-school and 3962 school children had completed a course of treatment at some time.

On the whole, these figures are satisfactory, although a higher percentage for pre-school children is desirable.

## SCARLET FEVER

The incidence of this disease declined and 26 cases were notified. The illness continued to be generally of a mild character and no deaths occurred. Not since 1935 has there been a death in the area attributed to Scarlet Fever.

## MEASLES

This disease continued to be prevalent, there being 116 cases notified, but this was a great reduction compared to the figure of 553 in 1948. No death from Measles occurred.

## WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping Cough, also, declined in incidence. Only 8 cases were notified and no deaths occurred.

**ENTERIC FEVERS.**—No case occurred during the year.

**INFANTILE PARALYSIS.**—No case occurred during the year.

The following table, which uses figures obtained from the Registrar General's returns, S.D.55, shows the comparative figures of notifications of certain diseases in England and Wales, the 148 Smaller Towns, and Ashington.

Diseases	Cases	Notified in the District	Ashington	Rate per 1,000 Pop. 148 Smaller Towns	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	..	26	0.90	1.83	1.63
Diphtheria	..	1	0.031	0.04	0.04
Typhoid Fever	..	—	—	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	..	—	—	0.01	0.01
Erysipelas	..	7	0.21 *	0.19	0.19
Pneumonia	..	15	0.51	0.65	0.8
Measles	..	116	1.02	9.18	8.95
Whooping Cough	..	8	0.277	2.39	2.39
Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	—	—	0.02	0.02

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

	New Cases and Mortality Rating 1910									
	New Cases					Deaths				
	Respir.		Non.		Resp.		Respir.		Non.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1- 5 years	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	...	...	...	...	2	6	—	1	2	2
25-35 years	...	...	...	...	—	4	—	—	2	—
35-45 years	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Over 65 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—
	10	12	—	1			5	2	1	0

### Tuberculosis

Notifications of Tuberculosis totalled 22 Respiratory and 1 non-Respiratory, compared to 25 and 5 respectively in 1948. The number of deaths was 6 less than in 1948.

#### Death Rate From Tuberculosis

In Ashington — 0.27 per 1,000 of the population.

In 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 - 50,000) — 0.42 per 1,000 of the population.

In England and Wales — 0.45 per 1,000 of the population.

Deaths of notified cases ...	7
Deaths of non-notified cases ...	1
Total deaths from Tuberculosis	8

### CANCER MORTALITY

	MALES										FEMALES														
	10-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total	10-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total					
Rectum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2				
Colon	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	5	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5				
Brain	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Lungs	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	7	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2				
Sarcoma-Lung	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1				
Uterus	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	5				
Palate and Fauces	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Stomach	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	7	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3				
Breast	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3				
Liver	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1				
Ovaries	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1				
Jaw	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1				
Parotid Gland	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1				
Peritoneum	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Pancreas	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1				
Bladder	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Rodent Ulcer—Face	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1				
Kidney	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Glands	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	6	6	3	11	32	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	5	—	14	29

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1949 VITAL STATISTICS**  
**Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain**  
**Infectious Diseases in the Year 1949—Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns**

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
<b>BIRTHS—</b>				
<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</b>				
Live births	...	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0
Still births	...	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40
				18.5
				0.37
<b>DEATHS—</b>				
All Causes	...	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6
Typhoid and paratyphoid	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	0.01	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	0.45	0.52	0.42
Influenza	...	0.15	0.15	0.14
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	...	0.01	0.02	0.02
Pneumonia	...	0.51	0.56	0.49
				0.01
				0.59
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—</b>				
Typhoid Fever	...	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	...	0.01	0.02	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	0.02	0.03	0.02
Scarlet fever	...	1.63	1.72	1.83
Whooping cough	...	2.39	2.44	2.39
Diphtheria	...	0.04	0.05	0.04
Erysipelas	...	0.19	0.20	0.19
Smallpox	...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	8.95	8.91	9.18
Pneumonia	...	0.80	0.91	0.65
Acute poliomyelitis	...	0.13	0.13	0.12
Acute polioencephalitis	...	0.01	0.01	0.02
Food poisoning	...	0.14	0.16	0.14
				0.18
				0.01
				0.19
<b>DEATHS—</b>				
All causes under 1 year of age	...	32(b)	37	30
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	3.0	3.8	2.4
				1.7
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—</b>				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	...	6.31	8.14	5.30
				6.82

**Maternal Mortality in England and Wales**

International List No. and Cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.11	8
141 Abortion without sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections	0.11	—
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes	0.71	—

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.







